

CA20N
XD 100
1975
A2
c.2

Ontario. Legislative Assembly. Select
Committee on the Fourth and Fifth Reports
of the Ontario Commission on the
Legislature.

Interim report. 1975

Chm. Donald H. Morrow

APR - 9 1976

C201

XP 10

1976

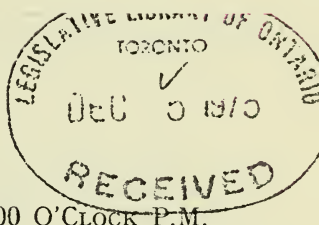
A2

C2

Ontario. Legislative assembly. Select
Committee on the fourth and fifth reports
of the Ontario commission on the legislature.
Interim report

(Notes + proceedings)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, 1975



PRAYERS

2.00 O'CLOCK P.M.


Mr. Morrow from the Select Committee on the Fourth and Fifth Reports of the Ontario Commission on the Legislature presented an interim Report as follows and moved its adoption.

Interim Report of the Select Committee on the Fourth and Fifth Reports of the Ontario Commission on the Legislature:

A Select Committee of this Legislature was assigned to study Reports Four and Five of the Ontario Commission on the Legislature, and to recommend on the advisability of implementing the recommendations of the reports, any part or parts thereof; and, if deemed advisable, the method and timing of implementation.

The Fifth Report contains recommendations on several matters of concern and importance to Members which could be dealt with immediately; the Committee has decided therefore to submit interim recommendations on media access to the Legislature, constituency offices for elected members and one procedural matter.

The Committee has held ten meetings to date and would like to acknowledge the co-operation of the following people who appeared before it: Douglas Fisher, Peter Brannan and members of Hansard staff, cameramen, Denis Massicote, David Allen and members of the press gallery, and Bernard Newman, M.P.P. John Holtby, First Clerk Assistant of the House, attended discussions on constituency offices in Quebec, British Columbia and the federal government.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2012 with funding from
University of Guelph, University of Windsor, York University and University of Toronto Libraries

Media Coverage

The Fifth Report deals at length with media coverage of proceedings in the Legislature. As a result of meetings with members of the Hansard staff, the press gallery and the electronic media, the Committee is aware of the practical implications of the proposed changes, and feels that their implementation could be accomplished on an interim basis with relatively little inconvenience.

Radio feeds are available at once at little cost, and we are satisfied from test film taken in the Chamber on November 25th that film cameras can be given access to the Legislature at moderate cost to provide, with only minor changes in lighting, reasonable coverage of every Member. Since film is the major medium now used for television news coverage, this would be a satisfactory interim solution.

The Committee will report on the broader questions of the introduction of television cameras, restructuring and refurbishing of the Assembly in its final report.

Recommendation: The Committee recommends that this Legislature give access to press gallery members for radio, film and still photograph coverage of the Legislature and its committees, in time for the next session, provided that a committee composed of the Speaker, representatives of all three parties and of the press gallery can reach a satisfactory agreement on the details of such access.

Constituency Offices

The Commissioners recommend in the Fifth Report that each elected member of the Legislature be entitled to a constituency office at public expense. The Committee asked each Member of this House for comments on this proposal and of 125 members, 97 indicated they are in favour of such publicly funded constituency offices, 3 are against and 4 made other suggestions. Eighty-six indicated such funding should commence immediately or on January 1st, 1976 and 11 suggested a later date.

The Committee concurs in the recommendation of the Commissioners:

that each elected Member of the Legislature be entitled to a constituency office and to the services of one employee, each at the expense of the public treasury. The costs of premises will vary significantly, but the treasury should be prepared to pay for reasonable space at going rates in the particular constituency. Additionally, salary for office help should be commensurate with salaries paid to the employees of the Members in their legislative offices.

Terms of leases and salaries for those employed should be negotiated by the individual Member and be approved by the Speaker who should also, in our judgment, recommend sensible guidelines and expenditure ceilings.

All expenses for the maintenance of such offices should be submitted to the Office of the Assembly for payment and should be published annually in the official Hansard.

The Committee feels that expenses for such offices should be paid directly by the Speaker and not through the Member. Should a Member desire more than one employee, he should be able to make alternative arrangements with the Speaker, provided that the total remuneration does not exceed the equivalent for one full-time employee.

No salary shall be paid to a Member's spouse or immediate family.

No rent shall be paid for a constituency office located in the home or business office of a Member or his immediate family, or in political party premises.

Within guidelines set by the Speaker, allowable expenses should include maintenance, office supplies, telephone service and furnishings in accordance with Queen's Park offices.

Where a Member requires a mobile office or more than one office because of the geographical size of his riding, he may make alternative arrangements with the Speaker, provided that the total cost does not exceed that which would be paid other Members.

The Committee strongly suggests the provision for constituency offices be effective January 1, 1976.

Recommendation: The Committee recommends that the Board of Internal Economy give immediate and urgent consideration to the recommendations of the Commissioners respecting constituency offices.

Introduction of Visitors to the Legislature:

Recommendation: The Committee recommends, in keeping with the recommendation on page 74 of the Fourth Report, that no announcements of visitors in the galleries in the Legislature be made with the exception of Heads of State, their representatives or distinguished parliamentary guests, as Mr. Speaker may decide, and such introductions should be made by Mr. Speaker.

On motion by Mr. Welch.

Ordered, That the debate be adjourned.

On motion by Mr. Welch,

Ordered, That, the Report for the Workmen's Compensation Board for the year ending December 31st, 1974, be referred to the Standing Estimates Committee for consideration on December 5th and December 8th concurrently with the House. Such consideration to be recorded by Hansard and transcribed for Members of the Committee only.

~~JUL 7 1981~~

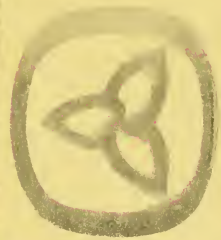
~~NOV 26 1981~~

~~NOV 26 1981~~

~~DEC 10 1981~~

~~AUG 13 1982~~

~~SEP 14 1983~~



PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

File Folder Letter - T½ R

~~JUL 2 1992~~

~~JUL 7 1992~~

~~AUG 26 1992~~

OCT 1 1 2000